

The *Library Connection* online newsletter provides the public with information about upcoming events, major programs and other news of the City of San Diego Public Library. Anyone can sign up for this free monthly email announcement by visiting the Library on the City's web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library> and clicking on "News & Events."

**FEBRUARY 2006**

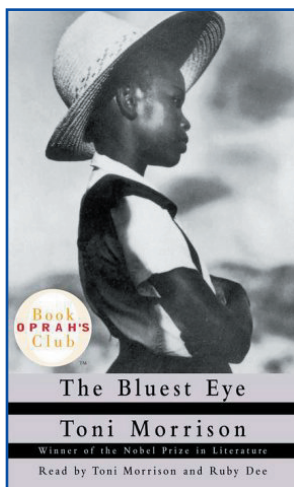
**VOLUME 4**

## Library Celebrates Black History Month with Special Events

### *Library to Host Three-Part Book Discussion Series: "Reconceptualizing Blackness"*

The Library will host a three-book discussion series entitled "Reconceptualizing Blackness: The Black Arts Movement and Beyond" in February and March. Camille Forbes, Ph.D., a professor of African American Literature at UCSD, will facilitate these free discussions at 6:30 p.m. in the Wangenheim Room of the Central Library, located at 820 E St., on the following dates:

- **Feb. 8:** "The Dutchman" by LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka),
- **Feb. 22:** "Funnyhouse of a Negro" by Adrienne Kennedy,
- **March 8:** "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison.



The Black Arts or Black Aesthetic Movement was the period of artistic and literary development among black Americans spanning the 1960s and early 1970s. Based on the cultural politics of Black Nationalism, it sought to create a populist art form to promote the idea of black separatism, viewing the artist as an activist responsible for the formation of racially separate publishing houses, theater troupes and study groups.

The literature of this epoch addressed such issues as interracial tension, sociopolitical awareness, and the significance of African history and culture to blacks in the United States.

Participants who would like to take advantage of this unique opportunity to read and discuss the literature of the era which directly followed the Harlem Renaissance and need copies of the books may pick them up in the Literature Section of the Central Library, or call 619-236-5816 to have copies sent to a library branch.

Funding for "Reconceptualizing Blackness: the Black Arts Movement and Beyond" was provided by the California Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Library of Congress.



### *Library to Screen Film "Freedom On My Mind"*

The Library will screen the documentary film "Freedom on My Mind" on Sunday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St.

This film was nominated for an Academy Award in 1994, and won both the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians

awards for best documentary in the same year, as well as grand jury prize for documentary at Sundance Film Festival. This landmark film tells the story of the Mississippi freedom movement in the early 1960s when a handful of young activists changed history.

The screening will take place "Freedom on My Mind," the story of the volatile battle to register black voters in Mississippi during the summer of 1964, makes provocative

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### **Mardi Gras Celebration to be Held at Library's Performance Annex**

As part of the Library's "Entre Nous Showcase," a Mardi Gras costume ball and contest will be held at the Performance Annex of the City Heights/Weingart Branch on Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Make yourself mysterious and unrecognizable. The Showcase spotlights the hidden talents of staff members of the San Diego Public Library each month through July 2006. Donations are accepted and will go toward youth programs at libraries. The library is located at 3795 Fairmount Ave. Call 619-641-6103.



## Libraries Closed Feb. 20 for Presidents' Day



All City libraries will be closed Monday, Feb. 20 in observance of Presidents' Day. As a convenience for patrons, book drops will remain open to return books and other materials.

## Students Tutor Students for Weekly Program

The Tutoring for Triumph program provides assistance to elementary and middle school students to learn and succeed. The tutors are students from Patrick Henry High School who use their learning experiences to benefit younger kids. The program shows how learning can be fun, it provides role models for the younger kids and gives the older kids a sense of giving back to their community. The program is available every Monday (except holidays) at the San Carlos Branch Library, 7265 Jackson Drive, in the library's community room from 4 to 5 p.m. For information, visit the Web site: <http://henry.sandi.net/students/2005/ejaffe/TFT/TFTIndex.htm>

## Class to Explore Fashion at Central Library

As part of the Library's Subject Internet & Technology series of classes, the Library's databases, selected Web sites and other resources will be explored on the topic of fashion. The class will be held Feb. 28 from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Computer Lab of the Central Library, 820 E St. Learn about designers, fashion history, and fashion photography. Jackie Adams and Steve Wheeler from the Library's Art, Music & Recreation Section will lead the class, which will be limited to 17 participants. Reservations are required. Sign up on or after Feb. 1 by calling 619-238-6621.



## Small Business Workshops Offered Free

The Library hosts free counseling sessions for small businesses with SCORE (Counselors to America's Small Business). Each session provides an opportunity to discuss various business challenges first-time and seasoned small business owners face in a competitive business world. Topics covered may include business plans, business start-up, finances, marketing, business expansion and other issues. Participants meet one-on-one with a SCORE counselor. These counselors have received high marks from those who have already attended a session. The next sessions will take place Feb. 1 and 15, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the Second Floor Meeting Room of the Central Library, 820 E St. Call or email to reserve seating. Walk-ins are welcome. To register or for more information, contact the Library's Business Resources & Technology Link in the Social Sciences section at 619-238-6630 or [businesslink@sandiego.gov](mailto:businesslink@sandiego.gov).

## Free Films at Libraries



The Library presents a variety of free films, many of which are independent or foreign films not widely distributed. Others are classic and family-friendly movies. For more information about films being shown, visit the Calendar of Events section on the Library's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.

## Central Library to Host Preview Presentations for S.D. Opera Season

Special free preview presentations about productions of the 2006 San Diego Opera season will be hosted by the City of San Diego Public Library. Opera preview lectures help you prepare for each of the San Diego Opera's productions and integrate both background and plot synopses of the repertoire into presentations that are both entertaining and illuminating.



Dr. Ron Shaheen

The lectures will be held in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego. Dr. Ron Shaheen, a music instructor at the University of San Diego, will lead the presentations. The lecture schedule is as follows:

- "**Lucia di Lammermoor**," by Gaetano Donizetti, on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 2 p.m.
- "**Carmen**," by Georges Bizet, on Tuesday, March 21 at 2 p.m.
- "**Julius Caesar in Egypt**," by George Frederic Handel, on Tuesday, April 11 at 2 p.m.
- "**Magic Flute**," by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, on Tuesday, May 2 at 2 p.m.

For more information about the presentations, call the Central Library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Library's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>. For more information about the productions, visit the San Diego Opera's Web site at <http://www.sdogera.com>.

## Two Concerts to be Held at Central Library

As part of the Library's 2006 Winter/Spring Concert Series two programs will be presented in February. Classical guitarist **Robert Wetzel** will perform works by Milan, Mudarra, Narvaez, Sor and Broca on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 2:30 p.m. Also, pianist **James Gary** will perform works by Scriabin, Rachmaninoff and Mozart on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 2:30 p.m. The concerts will be held in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, 820 E St. For more information, call 619-236-5800.



## Former Librarian Clara Breed to be Honored with New Book, Exhibits and Special Events

As the children's librarian for the San Diego Public Library, it's difficult to know the depths of pain, anger and sadness felt by Clara Breed when Japanese-American children and their families were sent to internment camps



*Clara Estelle Breed worked at the San Diego Public Library for 42 years, including the last 24 years as City Librarian.*

during World War II. But we do know that she was not only an outspoken opponent of the injustice, but also a friend to the children. As they prepared for a journey that would lead them to assembly and relocation camps in Santa Anita, Calif., and Poston, Ariz., Ms. Breed handed out postcards to the children and asked them to write her. She would write back to all of them, sending pictures, books and various necessities.

Ms. Breed wrote articles for national publications in the 1940s that criticized the injustice of the camps and the federal program. At the time of national hysteria following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the ensuing nationalistic fervor for the war effort, Ms. Breed's actions were very brave. She could have easily been the victim of public backlash. But she stood by her convictions and recognized not only the importance of speaking out but also of bringing some

comfort to the families in the camps.

In an article for the Feb. 1, 1943, issue of the national Library Journal, Ms. Breed wrote, "To children and young people of Japanese ancestry...born in this country and educated in our schools, the war came like a hurricane, sweeping away their security, their friends, their jobs, sometimes their fathers into internment camps, and finally their schools and homes and liberty. One day they were living in a democracy, as good as anyone or almost, and the next they were 'Japs' aware of hate and potential violence which might strike with lightning swiftness."

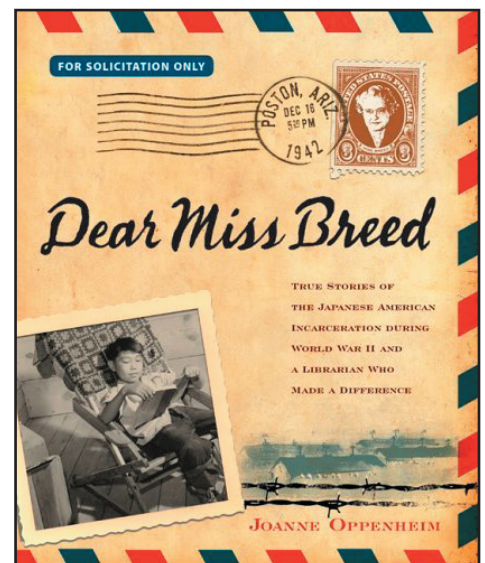
A new young adult book by Joanne Oppenheim will be published this month entitled "Dear Miss Breed" that chronicles the correspondence between Ms. Breed and the children. It's a very moving work and shows how Ms. Breed became a connection for many of the children to the outside world they had been forced to leave.

Her correspondence and gifts were very important to the children. In remembering her interment, La Jolla resident Elizabeth Kikuchi Yamada recently wrote, "Every book that Clara Breed sent me was an affirmation that we were not the enemy, the 'non-alien' – but American citizens. Every book was more than stories that enlightened, instructed, and/or entertained. Every book was hope."

The San Diego Public Library is very proud of Ms. Breed, who would go on to become the Library's director from 1945-70. She passed away in 1994. In recognition of her accomplishments, and in celebration of her 100th birthday as well as the publication of "Dear Miss Breed," the Library will host a series of exhibits and special events, including activities with author Joanne Oppenheim. **Ms. Oppenheim will discuss her book at the Central Library, 820 E St., on Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. The event is free and will be held in the third floor auditorium.** The event

is being co-sponsored by the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego.

For the latest information about Clara Breed events and exhibits, please visit the Library's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library> or contact your local library.



## Former U.S. Sen. Gary Hart to Discuss New Book as Part of Great American Writers Series

Former U.S. Sen. Gary Hart will discuss his new book, "God and Caesar: Religion and Politics in America," as part of the Great American Writers Series on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 3 p.m. Co-presented by the Library and the City Club of San Diego, the event will take place at Point Loma Nazarene University, 3900 Lomaland Drive.

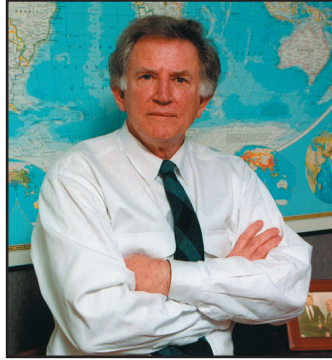
Prior to his election as a U.S. senator from Colorado in 1974, Hart had never before sought public office. He was a presidential candidate in both 1984 and 1988. Hart has also served as an appellate attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice, a special assistant at the U.S. Department of the Interior, and senior counsel to one of America's oldest international law firms, Coudert Brothers.

Hart is the author of more than a dozen books, including three novels (one co-authored with former Secretary of Defense William Cohen). In 2001, he earned a Ph.D from Oxford University.

Hart's latest book, "God and Caesar in America: An Essay on Religion and Politics," is a critical analysis of the dangers of one minority wing of one religion subverting the political system to its beliefs to ensure political power. In this essay, Hart outlines what he believes to be a growing danger of religious fundamentalism in America.

The continuing Great American Writers Series, which began in 1999, features the whole genre of American writing – fiction, non-fiction and journalism. Past authors have included Doris Kearns Goodwin, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., George Plimpton, Rick Reilly, Paul Theroux and many others.

The \$10 admission includes a copy of "God and Caesar in America." For more information or to make reservations, contact the City Club of San Diego at 619-687-3580 or [cityclubofsandiego@prodigy.net](mailto:cityclubofsandiego@prodigy.net).



Gary Hart

### Gardening Workshop at Environmental Library to Look at Creative Lawns

Pamela Homfelt, a horticulturist and landscape designer, and owner of pH Exterior Design, will discuss creative possibilities when eliminating a lawn. The workshop will be held Feb. 25 at the City's Ridgehaven Building, 9601 Ridgehaven Court in Kearny Mesa, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. There will be a question and answer session and a tour of the Environmental Library, located in the first floor. The library will be open special hours from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. exclusively for those attending the workshop. Reservations are not required, and the event is free. For information about this and future workshops, contact Randy Blum at 858-492-5036 or via email at [rblum@sandiego.gov](mailto:rblum@sandiego.gov).



### "Freedom on My Mind"

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use of that old film to situate viewers in a blatantly racist time and place.

Interwoven with the archival material are recent interviews with many who were active in the civil rights movement: L. C. Dorsey, a sharecropper's daughter from Mississippi; Bob Moses, a black graduate student from Harvard; Marshall Ganz, one of many white, middle-class college students bused in to register black voters and to attract the kind of news-media attention that Southern blacks would have been unlikely to draw on their own.

As they look back 30 years to what was called Freedom Summer, their testimony adds a complex layer to the film. An absorbing work of historical preservation and strong ideas.

Clayborne Carson, a Stanford University professor, calls this film, "A splendid achievement...In its dramatic effectiveness and historical acuity, it surpasses all previous documentaries on the southern struggle, including the remarkable *Eyes on the Prize*."

For more information, call the Central Library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Library on the City's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.

### Free Business Marketing Workshop Available

Marcus Schaller of the Purple Dot Group will talk about how the lack of consistent sales leads is the No. 1 killer of most services. Business marketing must be consistent and carefully planned, yet flexible. The workshop will be held Feb. 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the Second Floor Meeting Room of the Central Library, 820 E St. To register for the workshop or receive more information, contact the Library's Business Resources & Technology Link at 619-238-6630 or [businesslink@sandiego.gov](mailto:businesslink@sandiego.gov).

### Even More Great Events and Programs!

For the very latest information about Library events, exhibits, activities and other programs, visit your local library or check out the Library on the City's web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.

